Supersonic Combustion Ramjet

2214. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ISRO had designed and developed a Supersonic Combustion Ramjet;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of projects taken up by the ISRO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) As part of advanced technology initiative in the area of Air-Breathing propulsion, a series of ground tests on a Supersonic Combustion Ramjet engine has been successfully completed. During these tests, a stable combustion has been achieved for nearly 7 seconds at supersonic speeds corresponding to an inlet Mach number of 6 (*i.e.*, six times the speed of sound).

(c) ISRO is currently carrying out further work related to design, development, analysis and realisation of integrated Supersonic Combustion Ramjet module.

Chandrayaan Project of ISRO

2215. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Chandrayaan Project of the ISRO has not just intended to land an Indian on the moon, but to exlore the vast mineral resources;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the cost of putting material in space would have to be reduced for the project success; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Chandrayaan-1 is not intended to land an Indian on moon and it is an unmanned instrumented spacecraft to orbit around moon. The objectives of this indigenous mission include high resolution imaging of lunar terrain and mapping of various chemicals and mineralogical constituents over its surface. In addition to the primary Indian payloads, through

Announcement of Opportunity (AO), Indian Space Researcgh Organisation (ISRO) selected six payloads from international community. The approved cost of this mission is Rs. 386 crores. The launch is targeted for first quarter of 2008 using Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).

(c) and (d) No, Sir The funding provided takes into account current cost of putting material in space and is adequate to meet project requirements.

Creation of Aeronautics Commission

2216. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ISRO had recommended for the creation of Aeronautics Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the views of Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there was an acute shortage of specialists; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The Aeronautical Society of India has recommended to the Government of India to constitute the National Aeronautics Commission. However, no decision has been taken by the Government in this regard.

(c) and (d) A committee constituted by the Aeronautical Society of India has observed that there is a shortage of specialists for aeronautical like pilots, aircraft maintenance engineers and technicians.

Industrial units in the Country

†2217. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are 42.12 million industrial units in the country at present;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.